

REMARKS

The Examiner is requiring restriction to one of the following groups:

Group I: claims 1-7, drawn to a method of analyzing the binding interaction between two molecules.

Group II: claims 8-14, drawn to a method of selectively isolating a molecule by exploiting the binding interaction between two molecules.

Group III: claims 15-22, drawn to a molecule designated A.

Group IV: claims 23-29, drawn to a method of making a molecule designated A.

Group V: claim 30, drawn to a screening method using molecule A.

Applicants provisionally elect Group III, Claims 15-22, drawn to a molecule designated A, with traverse on the grounds that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctiveness between the identified groups. Also, it has not been shown that a burden exists in searching the claims of the five groups.

Moreover, the MPEP at § 803 states as follows:

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.”

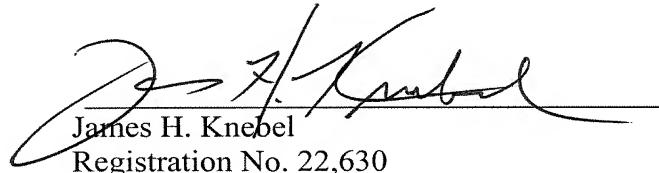
Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all of the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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